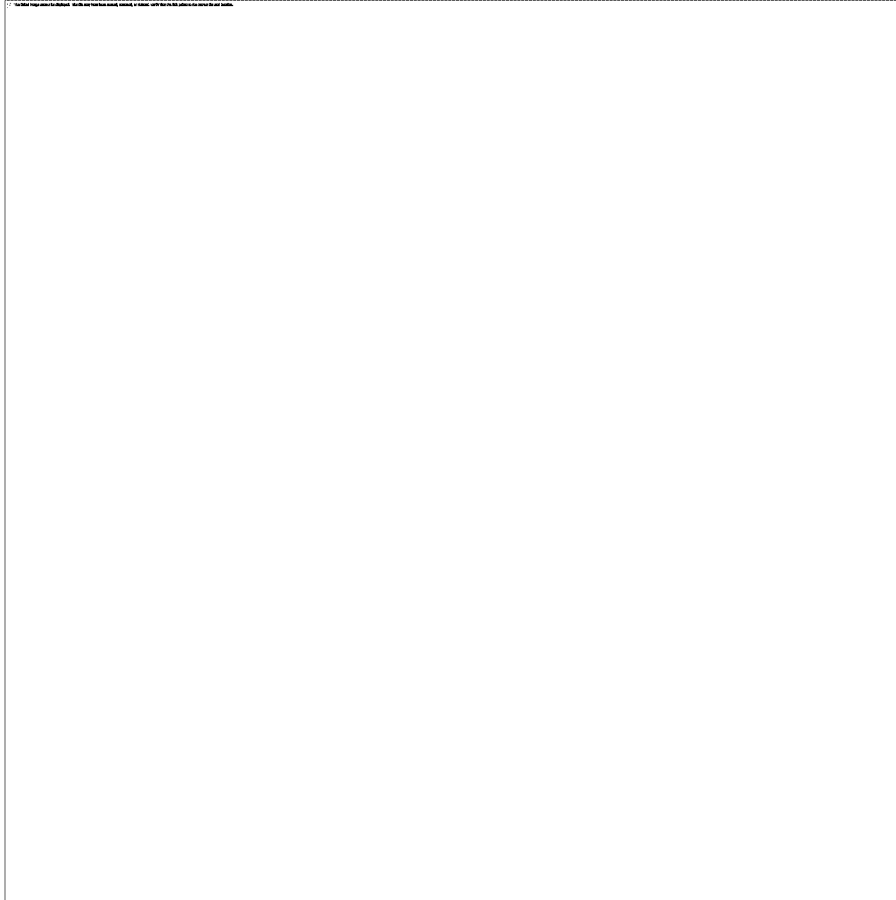


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NEWS UPDATE

July 8, 2020

### ***Top Story***

## **Governors write to EPA concerning small refinery exemptions**

By NebraskaTV • • Posted July 7, 2020

Four governors, including Gov. Pete Ricketts, wrote a letter to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler to express their concern over the agency's willingness to consider 52 applications for retroactive small refinery exemptions (SREs). The other three governors include Iowa, Minnesota and South Dakota. [ [read more ...](#) ]

### ***Trade***

## **China trade tensions high amid skepticism on ag purchases**

By Aberdeen News • • Posted July 7, 2020

Trade tensions are escalating again between the United States and China, which has renewed the skepticism about China being able and willing to uphold the phase one deal. The political tit-for-tat has been going on for weeks now but has centered around President Donald Trump's accusations that China was to blame for the coronavirus pandemic and that they purposely hid information regarding the spread and number of positive cases in their country. [ read more ... ]

## **Markets**

### **Lost in Oil Rally: \$2 Trillion-a-Year Refining Industry Pain**

By Barbara J Powell, Bloomberg • • Posted July 7, 2020

Crude oil is the world's most important commodity, but it's worthless without a refinery turning it into the products that people actually use: gasoline, diesel, jet-fuel and petrochemicals for plastics. And the world's refining industry today is in pain like never before. "Refining margins are absolutely catastrophic," Patrick Pouyanne, the head of Europe's top oil refining group Total SA, told investors last month, echoing a widely held view among executives, traders and analysts. [ read more ... ]

## **Carbon Capture**

### **Capturing Carbon in Nebraska Webinar Series**

By Nebraska Ethanol Board • • Posted July 7, 2020

Carbon capture, utilization, and storage presents numerous economic and environmental benefits for Nebraska. For ethanol plants, it offers economic value for a waste product and additional value in clean fuels markets. For power plants, it can aid in decarbonization efforts and offer grid assets as the energy system transforms over time. Throug [ read more ... ]

## **Policy & Politics**

### **South Dakota ethanol supporters call on Trump to approve E30**

By South Dakota Farmers Union • • Posted July 7, 2020

With the majestic Mount Rushmore as a backdrop, South Dakota ethanol supporters are calling on President Trump to take a "monumental step" by opening the world's largest gasoline market to higher blends like E30, thus demolishing the so-called "blend wall." In an advertisement that ran in the Rapid City Journal while the President is in the state, supporters cite the \$8 billion potential economic impact the ethanol industry can have on the South Dakota economy if illegal regulatory barriers are removed. [ read more ... ]

### **Groups Challenge EPA on SAFE Rule**

By Cindy Zimmerman, Agwired • • Posted July 7, 2020

A coalition of agriculture and biofuels groups are challenging the Trump administration's recent fuel efficiency rulemaking, on that grounds that it downplays the harm from reduced emission standards, ignores the efficiency and health benefits of higher ethanol blends, and fails to realize the promise of increased octane in gasoline. The rule in question, known as the Safer Affordable Fuel Efficiency Vehicle Rule (SAFER), was finalized on April 30, 2020, reversing an Obama-era rule that called for significant improvements in vehicle efficiency. Issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), it established a 1.5

percent increase in efficiency each year for light-duty vehicles, far short of the 5 percent increase in the existing rule. [ [read more ...](#) ]

Note: News clips provided do not necessarily reflect the views of coalition or its member governors.

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